

Five Little Monkeys

Instructions:

- Use one paper shopping bag for each person.
- Cut a hole big enough for each person's face to show through on one of the large rectangular sides of each bag.
- Draw ears next to the hole to look like monkey ears.
- Invite your child and four others to play "Five Little Monkeys" with you.
- Ask each person to put on a monkey mask. (If you don't have five people, start with the number of people you have).
- Count the children with the monkey masks. One, two, three, four, five. There are five monkeys.
- Sing the song: "Five Little Monkeys jumping on the bed. One fell off and bumped his head. Mama called the doctor and the doctor said, no more monkeys jumping on the bed! Four Little monkeys jumping on the bed..."
- Continue until there are no more monkeys in the song. As you sing, encourage the children to jump up and down.
- As each monkey falls off the bed have one of the children pretend to fall and then sit next to you.

**Description of the activity:**

With this activity children will demonstrate understanding of gross motor manipulative skills, and they will count numbers while being physical and using math.

Materials:

Markers, scissors, medium-sized paper grocery bags

After the activity is over:

- Encourage the children to count each other. For example: "can you help me count the rest of the monkeys? One, two, three. Only three monkeys left to jump."
- When the song is finished, encourage the children to sing it again on their own.
- Keep the monkey mask with your child's other toys for them to use later.

Why this activity is important: Movement activities that involve counting help your child to learn number sequences while developing motor skills.